

REPLY

To: Examiner of the Patent Office

1. Identification of the International Application

PCT/JP03/13482

2. Applicant

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4. Date of Notification: 28.09.2004

5. Subject Matter of Reply: as per attached

6. List of Attached Document:

- (1) Response to Written Opinion of the International  
Preliminary Examining Authority: 2 pages

Response to Written Opinion of  
the International Preliminary Examining Authority

According to the preliminary examination, the subject matter of claims 1-4,6-11,13-21 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of D1(JP 2002-7255A) cited in the ISR, the subject matter of claim 5 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of D1 and D2(JP 2000-250393A) and the subject matter of claim 12 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of the D1 and D3(JP2002-135844) cited in the ISR.

Claims 1-3,6-8,10,13,14,15 and17- 21 are amended by the limitation of claim wording "control program" based on reviewing of the cited references D1-D3.

D1 discloses a method for transmitting of files from a server to any one of clients based on designating of an area. However, D1 does not disclose or suggest contents of the files to be transmitted. That is, D1 does not disclose or suggest that a device driver program is transmitted from the server to the designated client. In this regard, there is the difference between the claimed invention and D1.

D2 discloses a configuration for providing data used for education via a network. However, D2 does not disclose or suggest that the device driver program is provided from the server to the designated client. In this regard, there is the difference between the claimed invention and D2. In this regard, there is the difference between the claimed invention and D2.

D3 discloses a configuration for searching moveable terminals located in a designated zone as a communication area and communicating data to the

searched moveable terminals. However, D3 does not disclose or suggest that the device driver program is communicated from the server to the designated client in the designated zone as the communication area. In this regard, there is the difference between the claimed invention and D3.

Each of the cited references D1-D3 does not teach or suggest the configuration corresponding to the transmission of the device driver program. Even if D1, D2 and D3 are combined, the claimed invention is not obvious from any combination of the cited references. We believe that claims 1-21 cannot be attained by a person with ordinary skill in the art.

## AMENDMENT

To: Examiner of the Patent Office

### 1. Identification of the International Application

PCT/JP03/13482

### 2. Applicant

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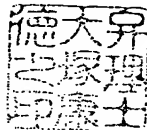
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### 4. Item to be Amended: Claims

### 5. Subject Matter of Amendment:

(1) Claims 1 to 3, 6 to 8, 10, 13 to 15, and 17 to 21  
are amended.

### 6. List of Attached Document:

(1) Replacement sheets of pages 43 to 52.

# CLAIMS

1. An information processing method of distributing  
across a network a control program for controlling a  
5 network device to a client apparatus for managing the  
network device, comprising:

a designation step of designating range  
information for searching for a network device  
connected to the network;

10 a search step of searching for the network device  
corresponding to the designated range information on  
the basis of the designated range information; and

a distribution step of distributing a control  
program to the client apparatus for managing the  
15 network device within the range searched by the  
processing in the search step.

2. The method according to claim 1, further  
comprising an acquisition step of acquiring address  
information of the network device on the basis of data  
20 obtained by the result of search of the network device  
in the search step,

wherein the distribution step performs the  
distribution process by using the address information  
acquired by the processing in the acquisition step.

25 3. The method according to claim 1, further  
comprising a recognition step of recognizing a  
preparation completion notification indicating that an

accepting module which is activated in the client apparatus as a transfer destination of the control program and receives the control program is prepared,

wherein the distribution step distributes the  
5 control program in response to recognition of the preparation completion notification by the processing in the recognition step.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the acquisition step acquires network address information  
10 corresponding to the range information for search, on the basis of data obtained by the result of search of the network device.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the range designated to search for the network device is  
15 designated for each domain, each OU (Organization Unit) in a directory service, or each IP address.

6. An information processing apparatus for distributing across a network a control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for  
20 managing said network device, comprising:

designating means for designating range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

searching means for searching for said network  
25 device corresponding to the designated range information on the basis of the designated range information; and

distributing means for distributing a control program to said client apparatus for managing said network device within the range searched by said searching means.

- 5     7.     A program for allowing a computer to execute information processing for distributing across a network a control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network device, comprising:

10           a designation module for designating range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

          a search module for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated range  
15     information on the basis of the designated range information; and

          a distribution module for distributing a control program to a client for managing said network device within the range searched by execution of said search  
20     module.

8.     An information processing method of distributing across a network a control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing the network device, comprising:

25           a designation step of designating geographical range information for searching for a network device connected to the network;

a search step of searching for the network device corresponding to the designated geographical range information on the basis of the designated geographical range information; and

- 5 a distribution step of distributing a control program to a client apparatus for managing the network device within a geographical range searched by the processing in the search step.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the  
10 geographical range information designated to search for the network device contains a room, floor, or building of a structure in which the network device is installed, or a municipality, a prefecture, or a nation in which the network device is installed.

15 10. The method according to claim 8, further comprising a recognition step of recognizing a preparation completion notification indicating that an accepting module which is activated in the client apparatus as a transfer destination of the control  
20 program and receives the control program is prepared,

wherein the distribution step distributes the control program in response to recognition of the preparation completion notification by the processing in the recognition step.

25 11. The method according to claim 8, further comprising a setting step of allowing the network device to detect position information corresponding to



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the geographical range, and set the detected position information in a memory such that the detected position information can be compared with the geographical range information.

- 5 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the setting step sets the position information corresponding to the geographical range in the memory on the basis of information detected by using a GPS.

- 10 13. An information processing apparatus for distributing across a network a control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network device, comprising:

designating means for designating geographical range information for searching for a network device  
15 connected to said network;

searching means for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated geographical range information on the basis of the designated geographical range information; and

- 20 distributing means for distributing a control program to a client apparatus for managing said network device within a geographical range searched by said searching means.

14. A program for allowing a computer to execute  
25 information processing for distributing across a network a control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network

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device, comprising:

a designation module for designating geographical range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

5 a search module for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated geographical range information on the basis of the designated geographical range information; and

a distribution module for distributing a control  
10 program to a client apparatus for managing said network device within a geographical range searched by execution of said search module.

15. An information processing method of distributing across a network a control program for controlling a  
15 network device to a client apparatus for managing the network device, comprising:

a first search step of searching for the client apparatus connected to the network by using a first device search module generated on the basis of script  
20 information;

a second search step of searching for a network device connected to a client apparatus found by the processing in the first search step by using a second search module generated on the basis of script  
25 information; and

a distribution step of distributing to the client apparatus the control program for controlling a

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network device found by the processing in the second search step.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the script information for generating the second device  
5 search module contains range information concerning a network address for specifying the network device or information concerning a geographical range.

17. An information processing apparatus for distributing across a network a control program for  
10 controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network device, comprising:

first searching means for searching for said client apparatus connected to said network by using a first device search module generated on the basis of  
15 script information;

second searching means for searching for a network device connected to a client apparatus found by said first searching means by using a second search module generated on the basis of script information;  
20 and

distributing means for distributing to said client apparatus the control program for controlling a network device found by said second searching means.

18. A program for allowing a computer to execute  
25 information processing for distributing across a network a control program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network

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device, comprising:

5 a first search module for searching for said client apparatus connected to said network by executing a first device search module generated on the basis of script information;

10 a second search module for searching for a network device connected to a client apparatus found by execution of said first search module by executing a second device search module generated on the basis of script information; and

a distribution module for distributing to said client apparatus the control program for controlling a network device found by execution of said second search module.

15 19. A computer-readable storage medium storing a control program for controlling a network device, wherein said program comprises:

20 a designation module for designating range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

a search module for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated range information on the basis of the designated range information; and

25 a distribution module for distributing a control program to a client for managing said network device within the range searched by execution of said search

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module.

20. A computer-readable storage medium storing a control program for controlling a network device, wherein said program comprises:

5 a designation module for designating geographical range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

a search module for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated geographical  
10 range information on the basis of the designated geographical range information; and

a distribution module for distributing a control program to a client apparatus for managing said network device within a geographical range searched by  
15 execution of said search module.

21. A computer-readable storage medium storing a control program for controlling a network device, wherein said program comprises:

a first search module for searching for said  
20 client apparatus connected to said network by executing a first device search module generated on the basis of script information;

a second search module for searching for a network device connected to a client apparatus found by  
25 execution of said first search module by executing a second device search module generated on the basis of script information; and

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a distribution module for distributing to said client apparatus the control program for controlling a network device found by execution of said second search module.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/ 13482

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
Int.Cl<sup>7</sup> G06F9/445, G06F3/12, G06F13/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl<sup>7</sup> G06F9/445, G06F3/12, G06F13/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
Japanese Utility Model Gazette 1926-1996, Japanese Publication of Unexamined Utility Model Applications 1971-2004, Japanese Registered Utility Model Gazette 1994-2004, Japanese Gazette Containing the Utility Model 1996-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| Y         | JP 2002-7255 A (NEC CORP.) 2002.01.11<br>(Family:none)                             | 1-21                  |
| Y         | JP 2002-135844 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP.) 2002.05.10<br>(Family:none)                   | 1-21                  |
| Y         | JP 2002-99816 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP.) 2002.04.05<br>(Family:none)                    | 1-21                  |
| Y         | JP 10-254708 A (CANON INC.) 1998.09.25<br>(Family:none)                            | 12                    |
| Y         | JP 2001-320767 A (NEC CORP.) 2001.11.16<br>(Family:none)                           | 12                    |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27.01.2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

10.2.2004

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